

Exhibit 1

(Guidepost Report – Hunt Portion)

WARNING: This report includes information and descriptions related to sexual assault. This may be triggering to readers who have had similar experiences. We encourage you to care for your safety and well-being. The content of this report is not appropriate for children.

Report of the Independent Investigation

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's
Response to Sexual Abuse Allegations and an Audit of the
Procedures and Actions of the Credentials Committee

May 15, 2022



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A. Allegations of Abuse Committed by Executive Committee Members

As per the Motion, we were asked to examine allegations of abuse during the relevant time period. During the course of our investigation, an SBC pastor and his wife came forward to report that former SBC President Johnny Hunt (2008-2010), who was the immediate past SBC President at the time, had sexually assaulted the wife on July 25, 2010. The allegations include grooming of the wife during Dr. Hunt's term as SBC President. At the time of the allegations, Dr. Hunt was also Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia. Dr. Hunt extended his July sabbatical to mid-September after the alleged incident.⁴³⁵

The husband, an SBC pastor for 25 years ("Pastor"), had a professional relationship with Dr. Hunt, whom he considered a mentor. Pastor and his wife ("Survivor") told us that prior to the assault, Dr. Hunt groomed the couple with flattery and promises of help in ministry. They also reported that Dr. Hunt gave an unusual amount of attention to Survivor, including making remarks about her appearance and comments of a sexual nature, and unwelcome touching including kissing her hand.

The couple stated that, after the assault, they were silenced by Dr. Hunt and the staff counselor at First Baptist Church Woodstock, who convinced them they should not talk about what happened. Recently, as Pastor was completing his doctorate while studying clinical counseling, conflict resolution, and peacemaking, and as Survivor entered therapy with a licensed trauma therapist, they began to process what they had experienced, and contacted us with this report.

We conducted multiple interviews with the couple, who relayed the following information:

At the June 2010 annual meeting, Dr. Hunt invited the couple to come spend some time with him and his family at Panama City Beach while he was on

⁴³⁵ <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/johnny-hunt-wife-extend-leave-of-absence/>.

sabbatical for the month of July. Pastor and Survivor looked up to Dr. Hunt as a spiritual father figure. Dr. Hunt is 24 years older than the couple, with daughters close in age to Survivor.

The couple did take a short vacation to the beach, staying at a separate location, and spent some time with the Hunts. At one point, Dr. Hunt kissed Survivor on the forehead and made inappropriate comments about Survivor's figure.

After the trip, Pastor told Dr. Hunt that Survivor wanted to return to the beach before school started to hear Bobby Bowden speak at Highland Park Baptist Church in Panama City Beach. Pastor asked Dr. Hunt's advice on securing a condo for her. Dr. Hunt gave him a phone number for a condo owner in his complex. Pastor called, and the owner told him to book directly on VRBO. Unbeknownst to Pastor, it was the unit next door to Dr. Hunt's condo.

On Saturday July 24, 2010, Pastor texted Dr. Hunt and asked him to keep an eye out for Survivor, and Dr. Hunt responded that he would take care of her and that his family will keep an eye out. Pastor and Survivor said they trusted Dr. Hunt and were under the impression that Dr. Hunt and his family would be at the beach, and Survivor could contact them if she needed anything.

On July 25, 2010, Survivor drove to the beach and made several stops – the church to hear Bobby Bowden speak, her childhood home and school, and the first church her husband pastored. Upon arrival at the condo, Survivor texted her husband and Dr. Hunt a picture of the ocean, letting them both know that she had arrived.

Dr. Hunt texted her asking what condo she was in. She responded with the number, and he replied that it was right next door and told her to step out on the balcony. Survivor was surprised that the condo her husband had rented was right next door to the Hunts' condo. Dr. Hunt and Survivor conversed from their respective balconies. He brought her a bottle of water. Survivor recalled Dr. Hunt shifting the conversation from ministry to flattery about her appearance, her clothing, and her perfume. Dr. Hunt remarked that he was hot from being in the sun, and Survivor said he could come sit in the shade on her balcony. Survivor described the balconies as side by

side with no ability to cross from one to the other. Survivor assumed that Dr. Hunt's wife and family were inside his condo unit.

Dr. Hunt came into Survivor's condo and they continued their conversation on Survivor's balcony. Dr. Hunt asked her if she felt safe and she said that she did. She did not know why he would ask such a question. He then told the Survivor to put her feet on his knee; he touched them while commenting on their beauty and size. At one point, he remarked that he was uncomfortable sitting outside because he didn't want to be seen so he suggested that they go inside.

Dr. Hunt pointed to the bedroom and said that he guessed that they didn't need to go in there. She objected by emphatically saying "No!" In the living room, Dr. Hunt asked about ministry and church frustrations. Dr. Hunt slid closer while Survivor was telling a story of the stress that she and her husband were under at the church. He asked her more personal questions about her life – like "have you ever done anything like this before?" and "if she was wild growing up?" She was confused and not sure of what he meant.

Dr. Hunt then moved towards Survivor and proceeded to pull her shorts down, turn her over and stare at her bare backside. He made sexual remarks about her body and things he had imagined about her. During this time, Survivor felt frozen. Survivor said these were some of the longest moments of her life. She mustered the courage to ask him could she turn back over, and Dr. Hunt said yes. When she turned back over, she began to pull up her shorts. Dr. Hunt then pinned her to the couch, got on top of her, and pulled up her shirt. He sexually assaulted her with his hands and mouth. Suddenly, Dr. Hunt stopped and then stood up. Survivor pulled down her shirt. Survivor said she did not want him to ruin his ministry, at which he responded he did not want to ruin hers. But he then forced himself on her again by groping her, trying to pull her shirt down, and violently kissing her. Survivor did not reciprocate, but rather stood eyes open and very stiff, hoping he would just stop and leave. He finally stopped and left.

She locked the door behind him and felt very shocked, confused, and violated. After he left, she tried to unpack her suitcase, and she fought back tears and felt overwhelmed by the shame of Dr. Hunt's sexual assault. Later Dr. Hunt texted her about coming out on the balcony. She wanted to sort out what had just happened, so she went outside. In a brief exchange, Dr.

Hunt stated that he would like to have sex with her three times a day. Survivor could not believe what she was hearing and could not get back inside her own condo quickly enough.

The next morning, Dr. Hunt texted her again to come out on the balcony at 9:30 am. He apologized and said that she did not need what had happened and needed a pastor instead. He asked her to forgive him, and Survivor said that she would. Dr. Hunt inquired if she had girlfriends that she would tell what happened. He told her not to mention what happened to anyone. She said that she would not mention it. He invited her to come down to the beach with him and his family. She said no, but he insisted and would not take no for an answer. She went down to the beach, sat in her own beach chair, and spoke with her husband by phone while on the beach.

On Tuesday, July 27th, Survivor attempted to confront Dr. Hunt about the assault, but never saw him. That morning, Survivor saw Dr. Hunt's wife, who confronted Survivor and told her that she doesn't know what Survivor is doing there, that Survivor needed to leave, that she didn't care where Survivor went, and that Survivor needed to leave that day and to stop talking to her husband. Survivor was very upset and called her husband who told her to just leave and come home. At that time, Pastor did not know that Survivor had been sexually assaulted. She left quickly because she did not want to see the Hunts after all that had happened.

Several days later, Dr. Hunt contacted Pastor and told him that they needed to meet at Pastor's church, FBC Woodstock, on Monday evening, August 2, 2010. Dr. Hunt met the couple there, accompanied by Roy Blankenship, a Counseling Pastor at FBC Woodstock. During the discussion, the Pastor learned for the first time that Dr. Hunt had sexually assaulted Survivor. Dr. Hunt mischaracterized his assault of Survivor, admitting to a light kiss, touching the Survivor's breasts over the clothes, and trying to pull her shorts down. He stated that "thank God I didn't consummate the relationship."

Survivor and Pastor stated that Mr. Blankenship said that in his expert opinion an inappropriate relationship had developed, and that based on his information it was consensual. Survivor states that at the time she believed that, even though she did not consent to what Dr. Hunt did to her, she was made to feel it was consensual because she did not fight back. When Survivor attempted to provide her version of the event, both Dr. Hunt and Mr. Blankenship spoke over her.

Survivor and Pastor stated that Mr. Blankenship told the couple that he had cleared his calendar and was going to initiate counseling for them. That week, the couple began to meet with Mr. Blankenship, who forbade them from discussing what happened on July 25th. On August 5th, Mr. Blankenship brought Dr. Hunt, his wife, Pastor, and Survivor in for another meeting at HopeQuest, a counseling ministry, to bring closure to the events on the 25th of July. Dr. Hunt and Mr. Blankenship stated that they could never talk about what had happened, and that if they did, it would negatively impact the over 40,000 churches Dr. Hunt represented. Dr. Hunt asked for Pastor's forgiveness, and Pastor said he agreed. After Pastor agreed, Dr. Hunt asked Pastor if Dr. Hunt needed to step down from FBC Woodstock. Pastor said no.

According to the couple, they felt great emotional stress and pain from the directives to forgive, forget, move on, and never tell. They shared that they have suffered financial and ministerial struggles directly related to the trauma they experienced. Dr. Hunt has remained in contact with Pastor even as recently as October 2021, reaching out every so often to partner on Biblical writing and offering to help with employment.

Pastor provided us with a hard drive on which he kept an electronic journal that contains entries related to the counseling sessions with Dr. Blankenship, as well as some audio recordings of the counseling and Pastor's thoughts following the counseling sessions. Guidepost has confirmed forensically that the data on the hard drive was in fact created in 2009-2011, which corroborates the counseling relationship between Mr. Blankenship and the couple.

Guidepost investigators reached out to Mr. Blankenship to discuss the couple's report. Investigators confirmed that, in 2010, Mr. Blankenship served as counseling minister at First Baptist Church Woodstock and CEO of HopeQuest, a counseling ministry. State

licensing records from the time indicate that Mr. Blankenship was not a licensed counselor.⁴³⁶ Mr. Blankenship is no longer a Southern Baptist.

After multiple attempts to schedule an interview with him via email, Guidepost investigators decided to approach him at his office on May 9, 2022. He initially refused to speak with investigators, but then said he would speak with them for just 20 minutes. He agreed to speak with investigators in his office.

When investigators told him what they wanted to question him about, Mr. Blankenship expressed concern for Survivor and Pastor, but he also said he did not want to betray a confidence. The investigators explained that they had a waiver from the couple to discuss their information. Mr. Blankenship did not offer a narrative of what happened, but he said he was willing to answer yes or no questions.⁴³⁷ During questioning, at times he provided more than a yes or no answer.

Mr. Blankenship confirmed that Dr. Hunt's extended sabbatical in 2010 was not related to exhaustion.⁴³⁸ He also confirmed that there was an incident in Panama City Beach involving Dr. Hunt and the Survivor. From the information he recollected, Mr. Blankenship said that Dr. Hunt had kissed Survivor and touched her breast over her clothes. He did not recall anything about pulling down pants. Mr. Blankenship stated that he did not think he received the full story. He confirmed that, at the time, his assessment was based on what Dr. Hunt told him and that the sexual contact was consensual.

⁴³⁶https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:i:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EfrVuTuSq6lNkFZYsqFPZcoBnX3DIRHy5tZbqHlOmSPwgQ?e=UvOSYh;https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:i:/s/SBCECInvestigation/ESb2zWm0HoVGhCa3Uq3uM7sBFFs3MDsKbEjfPoN7x6mWLw?e=zLz6og;https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:i:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EdsemjgFd4hHlxG7JbUKkSsB_CeKq1QHTytXPaYDJgXdDA?e=F7F4hL.

⁴³⁷https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EZkfLXA-CKhCkjmTlihuRjgBmVd8mskWwAHelo_xwslrnw?e=mX4IIY.

⁴³⁸ <http://m.bpnnews.net/33492/johnny-hunt-wife-extend-leave-of-absence>.

Mr. Blankenship stated that he and Dr. Hunt agreed to meet with the couple the following week, and they did in fact meet at Pastor's church. He stated that Dr. Hunt did not dominate the meeting, but he did apologize to Pastor, and Pastor said that he forgave him. When asked if Survivor gave an account of what happened, he said she could have spoken up, but she stayed silent. He went on to say that Dr. Hunt was the one with the power advantage and he should have been the one to stop it, adding but "it takes two to tango." He said he had been around for a while, and he knew how things worked. He questioned how Dr. Hunt and Survivor ended up in condos next door to each other. He called it a "he said/she said" situation, and he had no proof.

Mr. Blankenship also confirmed that a second meeting took place at HopeQuest and that Dr. Hunt and his wife as well as Survivor and Pastor were present. At that meeting, the couples were present to forgive, forget, and move on. Mr. Blankenship stated that he did remember Dr. Hunt saying that if this (story) got out, it could negatively impact 40,000 churches. He does not think this was said at that first meeting, but he does remember it being said at some point. Mr. Blankenship said that he was focused on helping the couple.

The interview lasted more than 45 minutes. Mr. Blankenship was guarded and hesitant to answer many of the investigators' questions, refusing to answer some while responding with details for others. He did not want to speak about anything related to his work with the couple in counseling.

Our investigators found Mr. Blankenship to be credible. As stated above, he did not seek to participate in the investigation and only reluctantly agreed to speak with investigators. He reported very similar details and events to those reported by Survivor and Pastor, with the only significant difference being on the issue of consent.

In addition to Mr. Blankenship, Guidepost investigators interviewed three additional witnesses with relevant information. Witness 1⁴³⁹ is a pastor and has been in ministry for over forty years. He has known the Survivor her whole life and her husband Pastor is like a son in ministry to him.

Witness 1 stated that he had a conversation with Pastor in 2010 and said it was like an atomic bomb. He shared that they were riding in a car and Pastor said that Dr. Hunt had made advances toward Survivor and it was not appropriate behavior. He remembered Pastor saying that Dr. Hunt had helped him find a condo to rent for Survivor. Pastor told him that it happened at a beach condo, and that Dr. Hunt had kissed her, touched her breast, undid her shorts, and that it may have stopped there. Pastor also told him that Dr. Hunt wanted to talk and the couple met with Dr. Hunt and a counselor where Dr. Hunt admitted that it was inappropriate but told Pastor that it didn't go all the way. Witness 1 said Pastor told him that Dr. Hunt asked for forgiveness and Pastor forgave him.

Witness 1 stated that both Pastor and Survivor respected Dr. Hunt and valued their relationship with him, and he was not aware of any conflict between Dr. Hunt and the couple prior to this incident. Witness 1 has known Dr. Hunt for over 20 years and traveled with him on international mission trips. He also stated that he could never see Survivor being an instigator in this situation. Witness 1 says that this has affected Pastor and Survivor's ministry and wondered what their ministry trajectory would have been if this had not happened.

Witness 2⁴⁴⁰ is currently a senior pastor in a Southern Baptist church, who worked closely in the same church with Pastor for over six years. He stated that Pastor had confided in him sometime around 2012. After a conference where Dr. Hunt was speaking, Pastor told him that Johnny Hunt is not what you might think. Witness 2 said that Pastor told him

⁴³⁹<https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EcdUbPziRfNHgK5sTGHjJWIBOdEA82-Jn5E-L8WFlqZww?e=1XGeGj>.

⁴⁴⁰https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EWn8yF4IsGIMk_slpYL8M3oBrvXe_Fp8kVR-Lc2ip3mjKw?e=wG8amh.

about Dr. Hunt abusing Survivor. Pastor did not give specific details but shared that it was sexual in nature. He also said that Pastor felt pressured by Dr. Hunt to forgive him. Witness 2 shared that this has affected Pastor's ministry and he deals with anger because of it. He stated that it was very hard on Pastor when Dr. Hunt was hired by the North American Mission Board ("NAMB"). He also shared that Survivor is an amazing person, and that he observed how hard it is for her to trust people in the church.

Witness 3⁴⁴¹ has served as a bi-vocational pastor in Southern Baptist churches and worked in local and state conventions. He is currently a minister in residence in a Southern Baptist organization. He had a coaching/mentoring relationship with Pastor and has known him for four years and said that during his work with Pastor, Pastor told him about Dr. Hunt making advances on Survivor and groping her and then subsequently covering it up. Pastor also shared that Dr. Hunt had apologized to Pastor for it. Witness 3 stated that he has seen the hurt that this has caused Pastor and it has affected his ministry.

Guidepost investigators found all three witnesses to be very credible with clear recollections of Pastor's statements to them. The witnesses are all still very much involved and committed to Southern Baptist life and the Convention.

As Guidepost investigators were investigating the couple's report, they interviewed Dr. Hunt on two occasions.⁴⁴² During the first interview, Dr. Hunt was asked standard questions related to the actions of the EC as detailed in the Messengers' Motion. Guidepost investigators did not directly confront Dr. Hunt at that time, as investigators had not yet spoken to key witnesses for corroboration.

⁴⁴¹<https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EbOnYO3L1QZLmndFh5IIFIUB9oynCY-5P7HSJ79BVT13A?e=1z9t1D>.

⁴⁴²<https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EYIU6XzqMOVuVay89itZFABcQjjGHi0qPvelx5ao2E7Kw?e=9fjpio>;
https://solutionpointintl.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SBCECInvestigation/EdBXfBI_33RMtPf3xBZtBzkBRBV07bhNk1IWdAt1n7zaVg?e=8RXCkK.

During the first interview, Dr. Hunt did acknowledge that, during his publicly-announced extended sabbatical, he was under the care of Mr. Blankenship. When asked if the sabbatical was at all related to a sexual abuse matter, he replied in the negative. Investigators asked Dr. Hunt several questions about Pastor's church, without identifying Pastor. They asked if Dr. Hunt knew the circumstances of the resignation of the senior pastor at that church, who suddenly and without explanation resigned in 2010. Dr. Hunt stated that he did not know who Pastor was, or why he had resigned. Dr. Hunt was also asked about the City of Refuge program affiliated with FBC Woodstock, a program for pastors who have a personal crisis but who wish to reenter ministry, which was started by Dr. Hunt and run by Mr. Blankenship. Dr. Hunt spoke about pastors making bad choices and that they might say to themselves "I can't believe I did this – one night slipped up" and they are now repentant and broken, and that they should be reconciled.

After interviewing several individuals with relevant information, Guidepost investigators set up a second interview with Dr. Hunt. When questioned if he knew why investigators wanted a second interview, Dr. Hunt responded that he did not know. Guidepost investigators explained to Dr. Hunt that they had received an allegation of abuse involving him and if he knew what they were talking about; Dr. Hunt responded that he was "totally in the dark."

In the second interview, Dr. Hunt acknowledged this time that he knew Pastor. Dr. Hunt stated that he had known the couple for at least twenty years, that Pastor had been converted under his ministry, and that Dr. Hunt had been a strong influence on Pastor's life. For a time, they pastored churches in the same state. Dr. Hunt said that while Dr. Hunt attended the 2010 annual convention, he does not remember any personal contact with the couple and does not think he spent any personal time with them. He shared that he takes time off every year in July, but he does not remember having the couple as guests when he was in Panama City Beach, but says they may have had lunch one time during that period of vacation.

Investigators asked if at some point Pastor had contacted him about finding a place to rent for Survivor to come back down to the beach for a week. Dr. Hunt did not remember Pastor asking for information, nor did he recall providing a phone number to help find a place. Dr. Hunt did state that he remembers Pastor calling to say Survivor was coming to the beach and that his family would look out for her. Dr. Hunt remembered Survivor texting him a picture of the pier saying that she was there. When asked if he knew where she was, Dr. Hunt said that unbeknownst to him Survivor had rented the condo next door, but he had no role in that. He stated that he has no idea who owned the condo next door because the building is mostly rentals.

When asked if he had any contact with Survivor while he was there, he responded that it was very brief on the balcony. While on the balcony he remembers Survivor telling him about going to see Bobby Bowden speak that morning but did not remember her saying what else she did that day before getting to the beach. (Both Dr. Hunt and Survivor described the balconies as side by side but you could not walk through to the other.) Dr. Hunt was asked whether he went onto her balcony or entered her condo and he responded he never entered her condo and was never on her balcony.

Dr. Hunt said that after seeing Survivor out on the balcony he did not have any further contact with Survivor during the time she was there. However, later in the interview he stated that he saw her the next day on the beach and then the following day his wife said something to her. And he does not know whether she changed places or just went home.

Dr. Hunt said that he did not have any physical contact with Survivor – “no contact whatsoever.” He also restated that it was not true that he was on the balcony or in the condo. When asked specifically about whether he kissed her, pulled at her shorts, or fondled her, he said no. He denied sexualized comments about her appearance, panties, tan lines, or perfume.

Dr. Hunt shared that his wife was uncomfortable with Survivor next door by herself because it just did not look right that she was down there all alone. At some point, he

thinks his wife may have said something to Survivor, and that all he knew was that Survivor was not there anymore. When asked whether his wife was there the whole time with him, he stated that there may have been a brief time that she was not there because of an event at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where she may have flown in and out in one day or the next day. He said it was possible that she was not there some of the time that Survivor was there.

When asked if he contacted Mr. Blankenship, the counselor, because there was a problem between Pastor and Survivor, he said that he did not contact him in regard to that but just for general help because Pastor was transitioning in ministry and Dr. Hunt had always been a sounding board for him.

Dr. Hunt remembers only one meeting with the couple on August 2, 2010. He said the meeting was brief and that he and his wife, along with Pastor and Survivor and Mr. Blankenship were present. Dr. Hunt claims that he never directed the couple towards Mr. Blankenship for counseling.

Dr. Hunt said that he did not apologize to Survivor for sexually assaulting her during this meeting because there was no contact between the two of them. He denied saying "Praise Jesus that I didn't consummate the relationship." If there was an apology, Dr. Hunt believed it was related to Mrs. Hunt offending Survivor about being concerned with her being there alone, and then apologizing for her having to leave. He stated that "Someone has created a story on me. I would like to hear her story on this." Dr. Hunt said that Survivor had never come on to him and he never felt threatened by her. Dr. Hunt stated that he and Pastor have stayed in contact over the years. Investigators asked Dr. Hunt if there were any similar allegations with other women. Dr. Hunt answered no.

Several times during the interview, Guidepost investigators directly asked Dr. Hunt about specific allegations of sexual abuse against the Survivor, controlling the narrative through the use of an unlicensed therapist, and trying to protect his ministry, 40,000 churches, and the SBC, all of which he denied. The investigators asked Dr. Hunt if there was anyone

else he thought we should speak with about the matter, and he said the only ones who would know would be the couple and Mr. Blankenship. The investigators asked if he thought his wife would speak with us and he replied no, saying that he doubts his wife would speak to us because her take was that we handled it and moved on. Investigators understood this to mean that Dr. Hunt had apologized for the fact that his wife had upset Survivor by telling her to leave. Throughout the interview, Dr. Hunt remained very calm, expressed little to no emotion, did not get upset, did not raise his voice, or express outrage at the allegations.

We included this sexual assault allegation in the report because the investigators found Pastor and Survivor to be credible; their report was corroborated in part by Mr. Blankenship and three other credible witnesses; and Dr. Hunt, while denying physical contact, does acknowledge that he had interactions with the Survivor, including on the condo balcony during the relevant time period. The investigators did not find Dr. Hunt to be credible in their interviews with him.

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